

Notice of Proposed No Further Action related to petroleum hydrocarbon discharge.
Comment Period ends November 4, 2002

Problem Description:

The Ernest Smith site is located on Horsewater Lane in Hayfork. Five underground storage tanks (USTs) were removed from the site on August 25, 1999. Gasoline was stored in 10,000-gallon, 8,000-gallon, and 2,000 gallon USTs. Clear diesel and red diesel were stored in two 10,000-gallon USTs. Contaminated soil and groundwater was discovered beneath the USTs during the removal process.

Interim Actions Completed:

Soil samples were collected below the USTs after the UST system was removed. Benzene, ethylbenzene, and xylenes were detected in one of nine soil samples at concentrations of 32 parts-per-billion (ppb), 31 ppb and 58 ppb respectively. Methyl-tert-butyl ether (MtBE) and tert-butyl alcohol (TBA) was also detected in three of the soil samples. The highest concentrations of MtBE and TBA were 120 ppb and 90 ppb respectively.

Water was present in the bottom of the excavations following UST removal. The water was reported to be perched above a lithified volcanic rock layer that was encountered between 12 and 15 feet deep. A sample of the perched water contained gasoline, benzene, toluene, ethyl benzene, xylenes, MtBE, TBA and tert-amyl methyl ether at concentrations of 300 ppb, 6.3 ppb, 1.1 ppb, 10 ppb, 32 ppb, 2,700 ppb, 430 ppb, and 180 respectively.

Three monitoring wells were installed at the site on October 5 and 6, 2000. One monitoring well was installed in the upgradient area of the former USTs and the other two monitoring wells were installed in the downgradient direction of the former UST complex. All the monitoring wells were installed onsite and within about 25 feet of the former UST excavations.

Six quarters of groundwater monitoring was conducted between April 2001 and July 2002. Gasoline, diesel, benzene and MtBE were detected in samples collected in July 2001 at concentrations of 60 ppb, 1120 ppb, 0.3 ppb, and 113 ppb respectively. No gasoline, diesel or other gasoline constituents have been detected in groundwater during the past four quarters of monitoring with the exception of MtBE that was detected at a concentration of 11 ppb in one sample collected on October 5, 2001.

Proposed Action:

This site is proposed for no further action.

MtBE Status: MtBE was detected in soil and groundwater samples collected from the UST excavations. MtBE was also detected in the groundwater monitoring wells. The highest concentration of MtBE detected in samples from the monitoring wells is 113 ppb. MtBE has not been detected in any of the monitoring wells for three consecutive quarters.

Unless comments are received with significant new information, Regional Water Board staff plans to concur with no further action upon conclusion of the comment period. For further information regarding this site, please contact Dean Prat at (707) 576-2801.